



**TESTIMONY OF
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
SUBMITTED TO THE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 26, 2020**

SB 75, An Act Permitting Persons Sixteen Years Old To Donate Blood

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning **SB 75, An Act Permitting Persons Sixteen Years Old To Donate Blood**. CHA supports this bill.

Before commenting on this bill, it is important to point out that Connecticut hospitals and health systems provide high quality care for everyone, regardless of their ability to pay, and work to improve the health of those who live in our communities. Supporting Connecticut's hospitals strengthens our healthcare system and our economy.

Connecticut hospitals rely on voluntary blood donations to provide essential medical care to their patients. It is imperative that these lifesaving donations are encouraged and collected from those who are willing to provide it.

We know that the sooner people are allowed and encouraged to donate, the more likely they are to continue as donors throughout their lifetime. This bill allows for the opportunity to expand the pool of available donors by allowing 16-year-olds to donate blood as long as they obtain parental consent. In doing so, Connecticut would be joining a number of other states that have taken steps to increase the potential supply of blood both in the short- and long-term.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.